



State Revolving Fund Loan Programs Drinking Water, Wastewater, Nonpoint Source

PRELIMINARY DECISION OF CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS, ORGANIZATIONS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES:

**CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS
Southport Air Nitrification System Expansion Design
DPW # SO-28-003A**

Date: June 12, 2008

Deadline for submittal of comments: July 14, 2008

Pursuant to IC 4-4-11, the State Revolving Fund Loan Program (SRF) has determined that the project described here and in Preliminary Engineering Report 5C, Section F, will have no substantial negative environmental impact. Therefore, the SRF is issuing a Preliminary Decision of Categorical Exclusion from the requirements of substantive environmental review.

The purpose of this notice is to seek input and comments on the SRF's preliminary decision that neither an Environmental Assessment (EA) nor an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required to implement the recommendations discussed in the attached Categorical Exclusion.

How were environmental issues considered?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires agencies disbursing Federal funds to include environmental factors in the decision making process. A summary of the project is attached for your review. The SRF's preliminary review has found that the proposed project does not require the preparation of either an EA or an EIS.

Why is additional environmental review not required?

Our environmental review has concluded that significant environmental impacts will not result from the proposed action.

How do I submit comments?

Any comments supporting or disagreeing with this preliminary decision should be submitted within 30 days of the above date to:

Max Henschen, Senior Environmental Manager
SRF Programs
100 North Senate Ave.; IGCN 1275
Indianapolis, IN 46204

What happens next?

If we do not receive substantive comments during the 30-day comment period which indicate that serious environmental issues exist, the SRF's preliminary decision will become final. If the scope of the project changes significantly, the final notice will be revoked and the project's environmental impacts will be reevaluated. In such a case, a new Categorical Exclusion may be issued for another 30-day comment period, or the SRF Loan Program will prepare an EA or EIS; we may also reaffirm our earlier decision of Categorical Exclusion by issuing a memo or letter to the project's State Revolving Fund Official Loan File.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

I. PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

Project Name and Address: **Southport Air Nitrification System Expansion Design
PER 5C-F; DPW# SO-28-003A**
City of Indianapolis Dept. of Public Works
2460 City-County Building
200 East Washington Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Authorized Representative: David Sherman, Director
Department of Public Works

II. PROJECT LOCATION

This project will involve only design and engineering activities for a future project at the Southport wastewater treatment plant (WWTP); no construction will be needed to implement this design project. The Southport WWTP is located at Southport Road and White River in the Maywood USGS Quadrangle, Township 14 North, Range 3 East, Section 8. Exhibit F-1 indicates the current Air Nitrification System at the Southport WWTP.

III. PROJECT NEED AND PURPOSE

The city's 2006 Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) proposed a new interplant connection between the Belmont and Southport WWTPs. The interplant connection will convey excess combined sewer flows to the Southport WWTP for treatment. The Southport WWTP treats wastewater through both the Oxygen Nitrification System (ONS) and Air Nitrification System (ANS). As the city implements the LTCP to abate combined sewer overflows (CSOs), the Southport WWTP, particularly the ANS, will need to be expanded to relieve the Belmont WWTP from the burden of treating combined sewer flows. In the future, the Southport WWTP could need to treat combined flows at rates equal to the current peak capacity of the facility. Consequently, the city needs to improve and expand the Southport WWTP to increase its peak wet weather flow capacity.

The city evaluated strategies for treating current wet weather flow surges, combined sewer flows from the future interplant connection, flows from the future CSO (Deep) Tunnel and additional dry weather flow from future growth in the Southport service area.

The current rated capacity of 30 million gallons per day (MGD) for the ANS and the total rated capacity of 125 MGD for Southport WWTP will remain the same. This project proposes engineering, planning and design services to expand and upgrade the ANS to provide more wet weather secondary biological treatment up to 150 MGD, including nitrification up to 120 MGD.

The city evaluated two alternative courses of action. Under the “no-action” alternative, the ANS at the Southport WWTP would not be able to treat combined sewer flows captured by the CSO Tunnel and conveyed to the WWTP by the Belmont-Southport Interconnection beyond its current capacity of 30 MGD. Combined sewer flows would be conveyed to the Southport WWTP via the interplant connection, but would continue to discharge to local waterways via CSO 003 at the Southport WWTP, rather than the current CSOs at the Belmont WWTP. This alternative was rejected.

Under the “Design Improvements and Expansion of the Air Nitrification System” alternative, the city will initiate planning and design of proposed improvements that will allow the city to double the Southport WWTP’s wet weather secondary biological treatment capacity to 300 MGD, with up to 270 MGD peak wet weather nitrification through both ONS and ANS, as outlined in the city’s LTCP. This alternative would also provide the city with more flexibility to balance flows between the Belmont and Southport WWTPs. This is the selected alternative.

IV. ESTIMATED PROJECT COSTS, AFFORDABILITY AND FUNDING

The project cost is estimated to be \$7,625,500. Indianapolis will borrow the project cost from the State Revolving Fund Loan Program (SRF) for a 20-year term at an annual interest rate to be determined at loan closing. The city has adjusted, and will continue to adjust, its rates and charges to pay for the projects and debt service.

V. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

Implementation of this project will not require construction. Consistent with the implementing regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act, the SRF has determined that the proposed undertaking is not a type of activity that has the potential to cause effects to historic properties.

VI. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A properly noticed public hearing was held on March 20, 2007 at 1:00 PM in Room 260 of the City-County Building to discuss the project. No negative comments on this project were voiced at the public hearing, and the city did not receive written comments in the five days following the hearing.



**CITY OF INDIANAPOLIS
SOUTHPORT AWT
ANS EXPANSION DESIGN (SO-28-003A)**

SCALE: 1" = 500'



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EXHIBIT F-1